

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a). In this Response, Claims 1, 10, and 16 are each amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) to the claims and the Final Rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SUPPORT IN THE SPECIFICATION

Support in the Specification for “said programming guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user’s request” , as added as a limitation to each of Independent Claims 1, 10, and 16 (all pending Independent Claims) is provided on page 7 lines 1 to 16.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,262) in view of Birdwell et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,108,706) and of Brodsky (U.S. Pat. No. 5,809,471). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of Independent Claims 1, 10, and 16 (all pending Independent Claims) has been amended to provide that the program guide has an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user’s request. None of the cited references appear to suggest such an approach; in this regard, Birdwell suggests sending the same information to all systems and relying on user filters (based on direct entry or prior user “behavior patterns”) to filter the information displayed to the user, Wise uses initial data only as stated by the user specifically, and Brosky (while teaching the sending of

information specific to each program and thereby perhaps having an implicit context for subsequently identifying the program being viewed based upon an inquiry from the user) does not teach specific monitoring of the program being enjoyed by the user. The user is thereby not as constrained in inquiries when using the method or corresponding system of the present invention when compared to the system taught by Brosky.

Applicants, accordingly, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) and the Final Rejection and admission of these amendments.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

The following are marked up versions of the amended paragraphs of the specification in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

-- The local parser **160** utilizes in the preferred embodiment small and multiple grammars along with several passes and a unique scoring mechanism to provide parse hypotheses. For example, the novel local parser **[102]160** recognizes according to this approach phrases such as dates, names of people, and movie categories. If a speaker utters "tell me about a comedy in which Mel Brooks stars and is shown before January 23rd", the local parser recognizes: "comedy" as being a movie category; "January 23rd" as a date; and "Mel Brooks" as an actor. The global parser assembles those items (movie category, date, etc.) together and recognizes that the speaker wishes to retrieve information about a movie with certain constraints. --

at page 11, lines 7 to 17:

--The preferred embodiment encodes the semantics via a frame data structure **164**. The frame data structure **164** contains empty slots **166** which are filled when the semantic interpretation of global parser **162** matches the frame. For example, a frame data structure (whose domain is tuner commands) includes an empty slot for specifying the

viewer-requested channel for a time period. If viewer **120** has provided the channel, then that empty slot is filled with that information. However, if that particular frame needs to be filled after the viewer has initially provided its request, then dialog manager **130** instructs the computer response module [134] to ask the viewer [120] to provide a desired channel.--

In the Claims:

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

1. . (Twice Amended) A system for accessing supplemental network-resident information about an audio/video program comprising:

a network connection through which network-resident information may be obtained;

a speech recognizer receptive of a user's input speech request for information about a program;

a natural language parser coupled to said speech recognizer for extracting a semantic representation of the user's request for information;

a data store for storing a representation of an electronic program guide, said programming guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user's request;

a search engine commander that issues at least one search request to at least one search engine through said network connection, wherein said search engine commander issues said at least one search request based on said semantic representation and using said representation of an electronic program guide to constrain said search request; and

a search results processor for receiving search results in response to said search request and for providing at least a portion of the received search results to the user as information about an audio/video program.

10. (Amended) A method of conducting a search for network-resident information about an audio/video program, comprising the steps of:

processing a user's input speech request for information about a program to generate a semantic representation;

formulating a search engine search request based on said semantic representation;

accessing a stored electronic program guide and using [said]an electronic program guide to constrain said search request, said programming guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user's request;

sending said constrained search request to at least one search engine over a network;

receiving search results from said at least one search engine.

16. (Amended) A method of conducting a search for network-resident information about an audio/video program, comprising the steps of:

processing a user's input speech request for information about a program to generate a semantic representation;

formulating a search engine search request based on said semantic representation;

sending said search request to at least one search engine over a network;

receiving search results from said at least one search engine;

accessing a stored electronic program guide, said programming guide having an indicator identifying the program being enjoyed by said user at the time of said user's request; and

using said electronic program guide to filter said search results.